employees of the Central Government for 1995-96. Group B employees are not covered under these orders. If any Ministry or Department have paid the bonus wrongly to Group B employees. It is for them to make recoveries and take suitable action against responsible persons. For this no specific instructions are considered necessary.

(d) to (g) The employees working in the Ministry of Railways in the scale of Rs. 1640—2900 have been paid Productivity Linked Bonus for the financial year 1995-96. Since the employees of this category in other Central Ministries have not been paid adhoc bonus. This issue of recovery of Bonus from aforesaid staff of this Ministry is being considered by the Railways.

Selection of Judges from Professional Advocates

1102. SHRI R. MARGABANDU: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that judges are selected from Professional Advocates;

(b) whether Bar Council of India and Bar Councils of States are being consulted before recommending the names by the concerned High Courts; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI RAMAKANT D. KHALAP): (a) As per provisions of Articles 217(2) of the Constitution a person who has held Judicial Office in the Territory of India or has been an Advocate of a High Court for at least 10 year is eligible for appointment as a Judge of the High Court.

(b) and (c) Appointment of Judges of the High Courts are made in consultation with the constitutional authorities pescribed in Article 217(1) of the Constitution of India which does not provide for consultation with the Bar Council of India and Bar Councils of States.

Amount Transferred as NPA in Punjab & Sind Bank, Indian Bank and Andhra Bank

1103. SHRI PARAG CHALIHA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of cases and amount involved which have been transferred as Non-performance Accounts by Punjab and Sind Bank, Indian Bank and Andhra Bank during 1993-94, 1994-95, 1995-96 bank-wise and year-wise;

(b) the number out of them which exceed Rs. 25 lakh and were sanctioned during the above years and have become NPA bank-wise and year-wise;

(c) whether any violation of Reserve Bank of India guidelines in the above cases have been detected; if so, whether responsibility for the violations has been fixed with names of the officers involved; and

(d) the action taken/proposed to be taken against the guilty, bank-wise?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) and (b) Reserve bank of India (RBI) has reported that non-performing assets (NPAS) of Andhra Bank, Punjab & Sind Bank and Indian Bank are as under:—

(Rs. in Crores)

	1993-94	1994-95	1995-96
Andhra Bank	520.70	377.65	332.20
Punjab & Sind Bank	637.28	619.32	725.29
Indian Bank	2040.51	2102.41	3140.90

RBI's data monitoring system does not generates information regarding number of accounts and the accounts with outstanding balances exceeding Rs. 25 lakh etc.

(c) and (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Violation of RBI Guidelines by Tata Group of Companies

1104. DR. JAGANNATH MISHRA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that Tata Group of Companies had used hudge amounts of bank funds to shore up their gross holdings in one another in violation of RBI rules;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether any enquiry has been conducted to ascertain the factual position and if so, the details thereof including the findings of the Enquiry Committee?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House to the extent permissible under the Rules.

Leprosy Patients in India

1105. SHRI ANANTA SETHI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) what is the number of laprosy patients undergoing treatment in the counter, State-wise;

(b) whether it is a fact that India has the largest number of laprosy patients in the world;

(c) whether it is also a fact that multi-drug therapy was introduced making treatment more efficient and of shorter duration;

(d) if so, success achieved therein so far;

(e) whether some voluntary organisations-missions are also running in different States providing laprosy treatment; if so, details thereof State-wise; and

(f) the details regarding the financial grant, if any, provided to these organisations/missions each, State-wise and since when?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI SALEEM IQBAL SHERVANI): (a) The number of leprosy patients undergoing treatment under the National Leprosy Eradication Programme in the country, State-wise is given in statement-I (*see* below).

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) A total number of 6.53 million